

Foodgrains for national food for work programme

1073. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI supplying foodgrains for the National Food for Work Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial allocations for the foodgrains being given by FCI; and

(d) whether there is any balance payment due to FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Foodgrains allocated during 2004-05 & 2005-06 were 19.99 lakh tonnes and 9.18 lakh tonnes respectively under National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP). No foodgrains have been allocated during 2006-07 as NFFWP has subsumed in NREGA with effect from 2nd February, 2006 and under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), foodgrains are not being supplied and wage payments are only through cash. There are no financial allocation for payment to FCI against actual lifting of foodgrains under NREGA.

(d) A balance amount of Rs. 943.61 crore is payable by Ministry of Rural Development to FCI as on 15.10.2006, against actual lifting of foodgrains under NFFWP.

Displaying details on vehicles carrying PDS items

1074. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had made it mandatory for vehicles carrying food articles for public distribution to display details on the vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the foodgrains meant for Public Distribution System were being diverted to the open market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There have been instances of foodgrains loaded on to trucks in FCI godowns by State Agencies being diverted to the open market. With a view to checking this menace, it has been decided that the following information should be displayed prominently on the wind shield as well as the rear end of the truck/vehicle carrying PDS articles from centralized godowns to the Fair Price Shop with immediate effect:

On PDS Ration Duty

Government of

Destination:

Commodity:

Agent's Name:

The above noted information may be displayed on a Board/Banner of about 3' x 2' size written/printed in black ink. This information should, as far as possible, be displayed in the local language. The trucks/vehicles which do not possess stickers/banners containing the above information will be returned without load by the FCI/CWC w.e.f. 1.12.2006.

National Consumer Helpline

1075. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched the "National Consumer Helpline" (NCH) in September, 2006;

(b) the details of manner in which it functions;

(c) whether foreign airlines operating in India are outside the purview of the NCH;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to bring all foreign companies selling goods in the country under the NCH?